

COMMUNITY NEWS

Elba Chamber of Commerce presents... March's Business of the Month Jerry's

Jerry and Debbie Huggins, owners and operators, opened Jerry's on February 2, 2004.

The restaurant offers a wide menu variety with a relaxed atmosphere. Huggins said there are currently 14 people employed at Jerry's which is open Monday through Saturday. The cooking hours are 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

"Menu changes occur every three months," Huggins said. "Be sure to check for new menu items."

He also said plans are underway to enlarge Jerry's adding a completely separate smoking and lounge area.

Jerry and Debbie, along with their staff, thank all their patrons for the overwhelming support during this past year and look forward to serving everyone for years to come.

"Again, we would like to say thanks to all our customers for their support," Huggins said.



Restaurant owner Jerry Huggins (shown above) said Jerry's is a customer oriented business. He said the main objective of the staff of Jerry's is to always strive to please the customer.

Donna Bragg is winner of March McKinley Award at Troy University.

Donna Bragg, Datatel specialist in the Records Department, is the winner of the Vergil Parks McKinley Award for March at Troy University.

Bragg, who has been a member of the TROY staff since 1995, received the award during a ceremony held recently in the Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor on the Troy Campus. Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., chancellor of Troy University, presented the award to Bragg, who was nominated by Tamara Jones, associate registrar in the Records Office.

The McKinley Award is the highest honor that Troy

University gives to a non-faculty staff member. It is presented monthly to an employee who has demonstrated outstanding attitude, innovation and work ethic. The award was established by former Texaco CEO John McKinley in honor of his father, Vergil Parks McKinley, who was a Troy University professor during the early 20th century and was key to the development of the university's athletic program. Winners of this award receive an engraved clock and a \$350 stipend.

In a letter of nomination, Jones pointed to Bragg's knowledge of her job and willingness

to help others.

"Donna is never too busy to help anyone who comes her way from staff and faculty and most of all students," said Jones. "I feel that Donna Bragg exemplifies what the McKinley Award stands for and she would represent it and Troy University to the highest standards. I am excited to have her as a member of my staff."

Bragg, a resident of Elba, said she was honored to receive the award and the team concept exhibited by the Records Office staff made for a wonderful work environment.



Tales and Scales to perform at Piney Woods Arts Festival April 16 & 17.

Piney Woods Arts Festival sponsored by Coffee County Arts Alliance will be held April 16th & 17th in Enterprise

The 31st Piney Woods Arts Festival will be April 16 & 17, 2005, on the grounds of Enterprise-Ozark Community College, Enterprise, AL from Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday Noon to 4 p.m. Original art, crafts, special displays, food and entertainment provide something for everyone.

This is a juried show, providing monetary awards, and attracts artists from throughout the Southeast. Additionally, art work by Junior High and Senior High students is featured on the grounds. EOCC art student's work will be displayed in the Conner Gallery. President Purchase Awards, from past Piney Woods Arts Festivals may be seen in the foyer of the gym. Saturday, "Tales and Scales," an instrumental musician troupe, will perform stories for children (told through music, theater, dance and imagination. "Tales and Scales" is the nation's only "musictelling" ensemble. Since 1986 the troupe of four instrumental musicians has worked with the brightest

emerging composers, writers and theater directors to create innovative new works each year in their mission to ignite the imaginations of children and family audiences. The "Tales & Scales" troupe will present ARABIAN KNIGHTS at 1:25 p.m. at the outside entertainment area.

The Children's Fun Center will delight children with "Moon Walk," face painting, and carnival games. Bonnie Holland, Alabama botanical artist and master gardener will conduct three free workshops in the gymnasium on pressing and preserving flowers, and on making notecards. The Saturday classes are at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on preserving flowers and attendees are asked to bring flowers. The Sunday 2 p.m. class will be on making notecards and preserved flowers will be provided. Reservations are necessary for the 15 places in each class. Call 347-2000 or 393-2797.

A Civil War Living History Display will be on the Piney

Woods grounds. Reenactors from the 15th Alabama Infantry, Company E, Confederate States of America/1st Battalion 15th U.S. Infantry Company E, Federal, will be in uniform in a camp area with tents set up to share the history of that era.

The Weevil City Cruisers Ninth Annual Car and Truck Show is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is from 8 a.m. to noon with awards given out at 4 p.m. to the 60 entries by class. There will be cars from the 1900's up to the newest models. For information call Tom Hunt at 702-8130.

Mary Jon Sneckenberger, Chairman of Piney Woods, invites everyone to come out and enjoy the last Coffee County Arts Alliance event this season for a fun filled weekend of arts, crafts, entertainment, and food. Many favorite artists are returning with something for everyone to enjoy.

Admission to the festival is free. Information: 334-347-1249 or 393-2797.

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The Elba Clipper

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Thursday, April 14, 2005

1 Section, 16 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Coffee County Commissioners reach gridlock vote for Zion Chapel Senior Center

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Progression with the Zion Chapel Senior Citizen Center project seemed to hit a hurdle Monday, April 11, when a gridlock vote kept the grant application process from moving forward at this time.

Commissioners were presented Monday with a request to approve a resolution that would commit the county to its grant match funds of \$48,825 for the project, as well as, a resolution that would allow the chairman to sign all related project documents.

Substitute bus drivers needed

County BOE approves pay increase

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Thursday evening, April 7, and received good news regarding a roofing project at New Brockton Elementary School.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram said bids for the project were opened Tuesday, April 5, and she was pleased with both the number of bids submitted and the bid prices.

Ingram said the low bid was provided by K C Construction of Dothan at \$539,500 which was \$11,039 lower than had been estimated.

"I think we have a real good plan, and I'm excited it came in at the price I did," Ingram said. She asked board members to approve the low bid as well as allowing her to send a letter of intent to proceed to the construction company. She said the letter will allow the company to go ahead and get started on the shop drawings while waiting on the final approval from the state.

"I realize it's going to be a sizable expenditure, but I think it will be worthwhile," board chairman Charles Walker said. Board members voted unanimously to approve the superintendent's request.

Ingram said she hopes the company can get the work done prior to the opening of school (Aug. 1st) if weather permits. Board members continue to

During County BOE meeting

Superintendent says hail storm damage tremendous at ZC School

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County Schools superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram told board members last Thursday evening, April 7, during the monthly board meeting that damage from a recent hail storm continues to be located at Zion Chapel Schools.

Ingram said she had met with the insurance adjuster, and he

confirmed there is extensive damage to the roofs at the school complex.

"All buildings except the field house will need to be re-roofed," the superintendent said.

The hail storm occurred Saturday, March 26, and reports indicated hail ranging up to the size of golf balls or larger in the Zion Chapel area.

Ingram said the gymnasium roof will certainly need to be re-roofed. She said that roof currently has 24 skylights and 23 of the 24 were broken by hail.

With those skylights broken, Ingram said she feels sure the entire gym floor will eventually have to be replaced.

"We're still finding more and more things," she said. "There's a lot of damage there."

Ingram said the school complex has broken windows, damage to covered walkways, vinyl siding, window screens. There was also damage to various miscellaneous items.

On Thursday evening, board members to approve a motion allowing her to solicit bids for the shingle roofs at the complex. Her request was approved by a unanimous vote.

This air conditioning duct at Zion Chapel School tells the story of the beating the area took from a recent hail storm. The school complex received excessive structural damage from large hail.

Commissioner — Linda

Westbrook represents that portion of the county, and she said the proposed center will be identical to the Ino, Pine Level and Damascus.

While discussing the center, Westbrook made mention to the rising cost of metal which might effect the overall cost of the new center somewhat.

Westbrook offered the motion to approve the two resolutions; however, they failed to pass as the vote reached a gridlock at 3-3-1. Voting in favor were commissioners Westbrook, Robert Stephens and Jim Thompson.

County BOE approves pay increase

look for ways to increase the number of available substitute bus drivers.

During Thursday evening's meeting, Ingram requested the board's approval to increase substitute bus driver pay from \$40/day to \$50/day.

She said she is still having trouble getting substitute drivers and hopes this increase in pay will help; however, she realizes other options may also have to be looked at in the near future.

Ingram said the school system is faced with several obstacles in obtaining substitute bus drivers because of all the requirements. She said new bus drivers are faced with quite a bit of upfront cost as they are required to get fingerprinted, go to Dothan to take the CDL driver's license test and they have to take a driving course. Other than being costly, she said these requirements also take quite a bit of time.

While discussing the matter, Ingram said an idea the school system might look at in the future would be to offer a supplement to teachers to be "on-call" if the school needed a bus driver. If their school system decided to look at this suggestion, Ingram said a teacher, of course, would have to have a CDL license, and would have to drive a certain number of times during the year to be eligible for the supplement.

Please See BOE, Page 11

amount for gasoline. Grimes said he expected to see the recreation department exceed its allowance once the summer ball season gets underway.

The major cause of council members that they would probably have to go back and amend the budget before the year is out because of the continually rising fuel cost.

Monthly bills totaling \$125,972.06 were approved for payment. This includes a regular transfer to the Elba School System (\$9,378.12), \$5,744.09 for gasoline, \$14,681.50 to Waste Management, \$23,318.33 for Workers Comp. Insurance and \$5,869.30 for summer recreation uniforms and supplies.

The council officially approved modifications to the Police Department SOP manual. Beginning immediately, any police officer taking a city owned vehicle home must live within the Elba city limits. Any exception to this written policy must be officially approved by the full city council. Officers taking police vehicles home with them must be "ready for immediate call" at any time. The SOP also governs an officer's dress and actions when driving these vehicles, even when off duty.

City Clerk Wayne Granham

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During the Coffee County Commission meeting Monday, April 11, commission chairman Doug Dalrymple said he recently had the privilege of accepting an award presented to the Commission. The award, from the Alabama Gerontological Society, thanked the Coffee County Commission for its support of senior citizens. Pictured with the award are the Coffee County Commissioners (from left): J.L. Weeks, Linda Westbrook, Jim Thompson, Doug Dalrymple, Robert Stephens, Tom Grimsley and Bernest Brooks.

Elba City Council approves modifications to police department's SOP manual

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council members approved three resolutions, amended the police department SOP manual, approved payment of the monthly bills and completed several other regular council matters in their Monday evening meeting.

Resolutions approved included one to accompany a CDBG grant request to upgrade some older sewer lines. This will include the Harris Avenue and Martin L. King Drive areas. Mayor James Grimes noted that recent sewer problems on Claxton Avenue resulted in parts of Claxton being added to the project. The total project cost is projected at \$576,505.00 with the proposed federal community development grant covering \$500,000 of the expenses.

Grimes noted that Elba was only one point shy of getting this grant approved last year and hopefully refinements in the application data will make Elba more successful this year. He stressed the critical need for upgrading the older parts of the Elba sewer system, which is constructed with short sections of terra cotta pipe and is leaking

at virtually every joint. This allows storm runoff, loaded with sand, to overflow and clog the sewer system and damage pumps.

Council members reviewed an engineering report on the status and efficiency of the Elba sewer lagoon system and voted unanimously to sign the necessary papers to submit the annual report to the state environmental management department.

"According to the engineering report, 'the effluent discharge loadings are well within the discharge limits permitted.' The report found no deficiencies from permit requirements. The system was rated at a score of 45. This is due to the sewage plant being 35 years old (one point per year), five points for exceeding the design flow during one month and five points were added for overflow caused by Hurricane Ivan. No action is required for point scores below 70."

Also approved was a resolution requested by the Coffee County Commission. It allows a commission selected contractor to disposal of construction and other demolition waste materials from within the city limits of Elba. The council members agreed with Mayor Grimes' recommendation that a clause be added to any contract allowing the city to withdraw from the agreement if Elba ever decides

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

Some numbers were released this week which indicated more people watching the tube were looking at the daily soap operas than watching this second marriage of England's Prince Charles. That is probably an American number, and doesn't include the Brits. These numbers are a far cry from the instant embracing the people of America gave to Princess Di before, during and following her story book marriage to the future king of England.

We come down on the side of those who regret that former President Jimmy Carter wasn't in the official group of Americans who made the trip to Pope John Paul II's funeral. No doubt he did politely withdraw when told others also wanted to be in the small delegation, that is this gentleman's kind nature. Here is the person who was the first U. S. President to invite, and welcome, Pope John Paul to the White House but he didn't make the cut on going to Rome - at least not the political cut. Presidential history will undoubtedly treat Jimmy Carter much better than some of those who served before him and others who sat in the Oval Office after him.

It was encouraging in the last few days to see several citizens reclaiming good used materials from the debris of the demolished old school building. There are reports of one man finding copper pipe, others were seen loading nice usable bricks and there were probably those who found just the big solid timbers they needed for some special project. Our sleep is much sounder just knowing all of the materials didn't go to waste and take up space in the landfill.

It was a surprise to many when Eric Rudolph, the man accused in the Atlanta Olympic bombing and the Birmingham abortion clinic bombing is pleading guilty. Here is a man who was successfully on the run for five years, continued to deny involvement, etc. Yet he suddenly decides to cop a plea. Rudolph reportedly also told law enforcement officers where to find additional explosives he had successfully hidden in the mountains of North Carolina.

The Elba levee looked awfully good during the recently heavy rains which blanketed this area. The pumps which are designed to handle the water collecting inside the levee also lived up to their billing. City crews know their jobs in such an emergency and did their work exactly as it is planned on the design room.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Apr. 4, 2005, investigated the following incidents: two for menacing, four for criminal mischief, three for theft of property, one unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, five for harassment, one domestic violence, one disorderly conduct, one terrorist threats, one possession of a forged instrument, one attempted burglary, one rape, one criminal trespassing, one unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle and one assault.

The following arrests were made: one for harassment, two for domestic violence, two for theft of property, one for failure to pay, one for failure to appear, one for disorderly conduct, one for making terrorist threats and one for possession of a forged instrument.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for an expired driver's license and one for running a stop sign.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, APR. 4 - River stage = 17.07 feet (7:00 a.m.); Disturbance (crowd) reported at 703 Plant Ave. (6:48 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Larkin Rd. (7:46 p.m.); Criminal mischief reported at 703 Plant Ave. (10:05 p.m.); Fight in progress on Jackson St. (10:21 p.m.).

TUESDAY, APR. 5 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to Edgewood Dr. (12:24 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1403 Smith Ave. (3:54 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Old Curtis Rd. (6:39 a.m.); River stage - 17.46 feet (7:30 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 712 N. Claxton Ave. (10:03 p.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a brush fire across from 1220 Hwy. 84 E.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 6 - River stage = 14.89 feet (8:38 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1595 County Rd. 408 (10:45 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on Hwy. 84 W. toward Opp (3:57 p.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to scene of the accident on Hwy. 84 W. (4:01 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1490 Smith Ave. (10:46 p.m.).

THURSDAY, APR. 7 - Prowler reported at 1622 Stouderne (4:29 a.m.); River stage - 19.46 feet (6:04 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 11987 Hwy. 189 (6:46 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1127 Deal St. (8:53 a.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (6:12 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (8:29 p.m.).

FRIDAY, APR. 8 - River stage - 15.68 feet (8:25 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 707 Roosevelt (9:09 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 3591 County Rd. 410 (7:37 p.m.).

SATURDAY, APR. 9 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 804 Davis St. (12:46 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported in the area of Thomas and Jackson streets (3:05 p.m.); Civil disturbance (verbal) at 776 Reese Ave. (4:39 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (8:50 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (10:33 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported at the Mulberry park (11:08 p.m.).

SUNDAY, APR. 10 - Disturbance (noise) reported in the area of Reese Ave. and Brookdale (2:43 a.m.); Fight in progress (with possible gun and/or knives) reported at the Mulberry Park (4:53 p.m.);

Alabama Senator Richard Shelby continues to promote a federal "Flat Tax" plan

By: Senator Richard Shelby

As April 15th looms closer and the burden of paying taxes weighs on Americans, the idea of tax reform is foremost in my mind. President Bush has acknowledged that fundamental tax reform is one of his top priorities for the 109th Congress. He created a new Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform, whose charge is to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on options to reform the tax code to make it simpler, fairer, and more pro-growth. I believe that with the President's support and our expanded Republican majority, Congress may finally have the opportunity to enact real, significant reform of the federal tax code. I still believe the opportunity to reform the tax code is possible.

Readers of my column might know that I have, for more than two decades, called for fundamental tax reform. I first introduced flat tax legislation as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and I have continued to advocate for the principles of fairness, equality, and simplicity that are the underpinnings of that legislation.

Today our tax code and its regulations total more than 60,000 pages which are complex, confusing and costly to comply with. A glaring example of this complexity is a finding by the IRS Inspector General that 19 out of 23 income tax forms completed and filed by employees at an IRS assistance center were erroneous. If the IRS, the very federal agency

charged with interpreting and enforcing our nation's tax laws, has an 80% failure rate, how can we expect the American people to understand the tax code, much less file error free forms? The answer is - we can not.

To expect more of taxpayers than can be delivered by the IRS is absurd, and maintaining the current system only contributes to the absurdity.

The flat tax legislation that I have advocated, and plan to introduce again in the 109th Congress, would repeal the current Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a single, flat rate tax that would apply to all taxpayers. This means that all earnings would be taxed at an equal rate - as low as seventeen percent once fully enacted. Under a flat tax, there will be no more unfair special interest deductions, unclear provisions, or painstaking forms to complete.

In place of itemized deductions that often favor special interests, my flat tax proposal would give each taxpayer a generous standard deduction of

\$12,790, or \$25,580 in the case of joint filers. Taxpayers would receive an additional \$5,510 standard deduction for each dependent child. Therefore, a family of four would need to earn over \$36,600 before they ever paid a single penny of taxes.

A flat tax also dramatically simplifies complicated IRS forms and instruction manuals by requiring taxpayers to file a simple postcard size return.

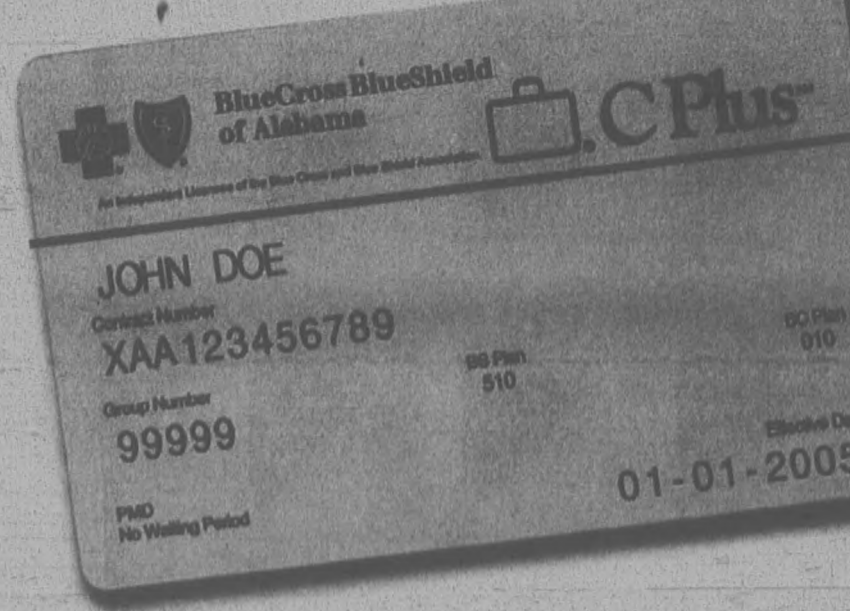
The need for an expensive accountant or attorney simply to comply with the law would be unnecessary because the flat tax levels the playing field and affords all Americans the same advantages and deductions regardless of their income level.

The time for significant reform of our tax code is now. While it is unclear what reform will ultimately be considered, I believe that a flat tax should be part of the debate. Only by treating every taxpayer equally can our tax code ever achieve true fairness.

Card of Thanks

Thanks to everyone for all the prayers, calls and visits during the illness and passing of our loved one. Your kindness will always be remembered.

The Family of Edward Marler

The C Plus Card
Now better than ever.

If you have Medicare, you're ready for C Plus - the only Medicare supplemental insurance card backed by the strength of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. With C Plus, you choose from more than 9,000 physicians and hospitals in Alabama. There are no extra claim forms when you use a PMD doctor. And now C Plus protects you with:

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BULLETIN BOARD

• ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.L.M.S. addition recovery ministry services - Thurs. 7 p.m. - Ino Baptist Church. Call 564-9770 or visit the website: www.inobaptist.com.

• ALCOHOL & DRUG RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP - every Tuesday at 6 p.m. - Shiloh Baptist Church of Elba - Call 897-5337 for more information.

• SOCIAL SECURITY REP. - Tuesday 1:30-3:30 p.m. - City Hall FREE 1-800-772-1213

• ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. - City Hall

• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m. - City Hall

• WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6 p.m. - City Hall

• ELBA MINISTRIAL ASSN. - Tues. 8 a.m. - Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 2nd Tues. 5:30 p.m. - Supr. Office

• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. - Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.

• MASONIC LODGE 170 - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Band Boosters - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. - Band Room @ Elba High School

• VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri. 8-12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Firm Center Complex 094-2535

• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. - Club House

• COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise

• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hanger at the Airport

• AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month

• ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room

• NEW SEASONS SPORTS CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

This space made possible by National Security Insurance Co.

LETTERS
TO
THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my sincere "Thanks" to Ronnie Nelson, President of the Coffee County Chapter, Woodman of the World and all chapter members.

The Coffee County Sheriff's Department recently received a contribution from the Woodman of the World, which was used to purchase two sets of road spikes, which are used to disable a fleeing vehicle by deflating the tires.

With the addition of these two sets of road spikes all Coffee County Sheriff's Department patrol vehicles are now equipped to deploy the road spikes if a fleeing suspect vehicle can be intercepted. In the past with not all patrol vehicles equipped with road spikes it seemed that only non-equipped vehicles were able to intercept the fleeing vehicle. Unless the suspect voluntarily stopped there were no means of properly disabling the vehicle and apprehending the suspect short of unnecessary force.

With the contribution of the road spikes hopefully any fleeing vehicle can be stopped prior to any chance of injury to other persons traveling the roadway, pedestrians, or officer.

Most Graciously,
Ben Moates, Coffee County Sheriff

CARD
OF
THANKS

Thank you all for the food, prayers, phone calls and every act of kindness shown to me during my sickness. God Bless You All, Louise Cox

4/14-pd.

SHARE YOUR
VIEWS - WRITE A
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Card of Thanks
We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, food, cards, flowers, visits, phone calls and the many acts of kindness shown to us during the extended illness and passing of our loved one, OTHA FARRIS.
Miriam Farris
Phil, Susie, Matthew & Elizabeth Farris



SHOT IN THE BACK BEFORE BREAKFAST

April 3, 1882 was a glorious spring day in St. Joseph, Missouri. With sunshine streaming through the kitchen windows, Mary Howard prepared breakfast. Her husband, Tom, sat in the parlor discussing a business proposition with friends Bob and Charlie Ford.

Tom noticed one of the pictures on the wall was crooked, so he grabbed a stool to stand on while straightening the picture. As Tom faced the wall, Bob Ford quietly drew his gun. Aiming carefully at Tom, he shot him behind the right ear. As the Fords hurried out, Mary raced for the parlor. On the floor lay the lifeless body of her husband Jesse James, alias Tom Howard.

One of the most famous of all nineteenth century American outlaws, Jesse James has become a mythical figure. Some see him as a cold-blooded killer, while others view him as a modern day Robin Hood. Somewhere between the two lies the truth.

Born on a farm near Kearney Missouri on September 5, 1847, Jesse was the second of three children. Before Jesse turned two his father, a Baptist minister, left for the California goldfields. He planned to send for his family after finding gold, but shortly after arriving contracted pneumonia and died. When Jesse was seven, his mother married a physician, Dr. Ruben Samuels.

At the age of fifteen, Jesse watched Union soldiers burn the family's crops because his older brother, Frank, fought with a Confederate guerrilla force called Quantrill's Raiders. The following year, when he turned sixteen, Jesse joined the same Raiders.

After the war, Jesse, his brother Frank, and some of their friends decided to make their living by robbing banks and trains. So, in 1866 they staged their first bank robbery in Liberty, Missouri. For the next ten years, the James-Younger Gang roamed across Missouri and neighboring states, seemingly robbing banks and trains at will.

Finally, in 1876 the gang decided to rob a bank in Northfield, Minnesota. It was a mistake. Townspeople watched gang members enter the bank, and quickly surmised what was happening. As they left the bank, an army of residents

confronted the gang. Armed with rifles, shotguns, axes and other weapons, they attacked. When it was over, only Jesse and Frank escaped from Minnesota.

After eluding several posses, Jesse and Frank arrived in Nashville, Tennessee. They were starving and tired. Afraid to return to Missouri, they sent for their families and lived quietly in Nashville under assumed names for the next three years. Had Jesse not left the need for the thrill and excitement provided by a life of crime, it is likely that he could have lived in Nashville as Tom Howard until the day of old age.

Missouri beckoned, so Frank and Jesse returned there in mid-1879. This time, Jesse found the governor of Missouri quickly offered a \$10,000 reward for his capture, dead or alive. Frank left for Nashville, and lived until 1915. Jesse didn't find out more about the Old West and its outlaws. Take the Web Journey.

Next Week: War in Warsaw

Jesse James My Father

Dime Novels and Penny Dreadfuls: Jesse James, the Outlaw

Jesse Woodson James

This resource is the first six chapters of a book published in 1899 written by Jesse James Jr. In it, he offers his own memories of his father, as well as stories to him by other family members.

Web Address: http://tinyurl.com/5j9t7

The Stanford University library has digitized a large collection of nineteenth century magazines, of which this is one. The stories, written for urban readers, romanticize the James Gang and their exploits. They were widely read, and helped create many of the legends about Jesse James.

Web Address: http://tinyurl.com/4ra42

This biography of Jesse James is part of the Crime Library developed through Court TV. It tells the story of the outlaw's life from his early years in Missouri through to his death in 1882.

Web Address: http://tinyurl.com/4mom7

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Obituaries

TALISA BOZEMAN

Mrs. Talisa (Taylor) Bozeman, age 32, of Elba, Ala., died Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, Ala.

Funeral services were held April 7, 2005 at Wise Mill Assembly of God Church with Rev. Kenneth Hagler and Rev. Ben McKee officiating. Burial followed in the Wise Mill Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include her husband: Tommy Bozeman, one daughter: Trena Nicole Bozeman, all of Elba; one step daughter: Brandy Bozeman, Shelby, N.C.; her father and mother: David and Dot Taylor, Elba; her grandmother: Irene

Hodge, Elba; her great-grandmother: Arkie Hodge, Elba; two brothers: Luke D. Taylor, died Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at the Elba Nursing Home.

Funeral services were held April 8, 2005 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Rev. J. Ralph Jones officiating. Burial followed in the Pine Level Community Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include her husband: Patrick Woodrow Rushing, Elba; and a sister: Hazel B. Pearce, Elba.

IRENE R. ALLEN
Mrs. Irene R. Allen, age 89, of Dothan, Ala., formerly of the Fairview Community, died Wednesday, April 6, 2005 in

Dothan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin W. Allen, a daughter and son-in-law, Idell (George) Jones, a son, Lamar Allen; four sisters and two brothers.

Funeral services were held April 8, 2005 at Searcy Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Sam Brassell and Rev. Billy Rich officiating. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Searcy Funeral Home directing. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 130909, Birmingham, AL 35213.

Mrs. Allen was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin W. Allen, a daughter and son-in-law, Idell (George) Jones, a son, Lamar Allen; four sisters and two brothers.

Survivors include two daughters: Lorene (husband, Billy) Ivey, Enterprise, Ala.; Anne (husband, Calvin) Simmons, Monroe, Ga.; two sons: Tolbert (wife, Valeria) Allen, Dothan; James (wife, Carol) Allen, Social Circle, Ga.; one sister:

Willie Pearl Calhoun, Phenix City, Ala.; 16 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

FAX SERVICE @
The Elba Clipper!

In Memory of Brandon Lassiter

The following was found on a wooden plaque in Brandon's things. It is taken from 1 Corinthians 13.

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast...It is not rude."

Love is not centered on one's self

"Love is all we have, the only way that each can help the other."

Everyone who gave you respect to Brandon, and to us at the time of his death, April 8, 2004, we want you to know we appreciate your comforting presence, kind remembrances and the many different ways you showed your concern at his passing. We do not want anyone's kindness to go unnoticed. Please forgive us if that happened but the circumstances were overwhelming.

God bless you,
Flora Lassiter
James M. Lassiter

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FOCUS
ON
FACTS

IT HAPPENED
THIS WEEK!

The news story from Ann Arbor, Michigan dated April 12, 1955 flashed around the world: "The vaccine worked! It is safe, effective, and potent." This headline referred to testing that had just been completed on a vaccine developed to prevent one of the world's most debilitating diseases: polio, also called infantile paralysis. Who was the scientist that developed the vaccine? Do you need to find the answer, or get more information? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/6rf2d>

ALABAMA
FAST FACT

World-renowned biologist, Harvard professor, Birmingham native, and University of Alabama graduate Edward Wilson won Pulitzer Prizes in 1978 and 1991 for his books "The Ants" and "On Human Nature." In addition, he has received the National Medal for Science and 90 other prizes or medals.

Accomplished in both science and letters, he has devoted his career to understanding the relationships between all of our planet's life forms. Find out more about him at <http://tinyurl.com/42mmr>

THE WEB JOURNEY

Jesse James My Father

Dime Novels and Penny Dreadfuls: Jesse James, the Outlaw

Jesse Woodson James

This resource is the first six chapters of a book published in 1899 written by Jesse James Jr. In it, he offers his own memories of his father, as well as stories to him by other family members.

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CHURCH NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Stanley Carter - Pastor
Elba United Methodist Church

"Whatever we want to see we can always see. The buzzard is an attractive bird. On a clear day you may look up into the sky and behold him gliding hither and yon, looking, looking for something. He will look and look for hours, but in time he will find what he is looking for, something dead and wholly repulsive to us. Living things, lovely flowers, fine fruits, green pastures, rich harvests have no attraction for him. He lives on dead and putrid things, and always can find such things in this world.

There is another bird, very small and very swift. We call him the Humming Bird. When we see him he is moving in and out among the flowers. His long bill he uses to extract sweetness from the very hearts of the flowers. He seeks sweetness only. And he always finds sweetness, for it is always present in this world.

The difference between these two birds is a matter of disposition. One wants the undesirable and he gets it, the other wants the desirable and he gets it. Our happiness and usefulness depend upon how we look at things. If we constantly seek the ugly in people we inevitably become disagreeable to ourselves and to others. On the other hand, if we seek only the good, there is sunshine in our souls and we radiate happiness and good cheer wherever we go." (Real Colossians 3:2) Be sure to remember our troops in your prayers.

Elder Huggins sets Annual District Conference for Ozark-Troy District AME Churches

Presiding Elder Willis N. Huggins, leader of the Ozark-Troy District AME Churches in the Wiregrass Area, has set the Annual District Conference for April 15-16 at St. Paul AME Church in Brundidge. On Friday at 7:00 p.m., the preacher will be the Communion Services will be Presiding Elder David E. Reddick, leader of the Dothan-Eufaula District of the South Alabama Conference. On Saturday morning, workshops will address the District theme, "Proud to be AME!" Mrs. Donnell B. Anderson, president of the 9th Episcopal District (State of Alabama) Lay Organization, will address the lay perspective in Workshop 1. Presiding Elder Dwight Dillard, leader of the South Birmingham/Huntsville District

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Bishop & Mrs. Nelson Kimberley

Revival services planned at Praise and Glory Worship Center

Revival services will be held at Praise and Glory Worship Center located in New Brockton on South John Street, April 17-22.

Bishop Nelson Kimberley will be the visiting speaker.

Bishop Kimberley is a previous pastor for the Elba Church of God. Friends and previous church members are invited to come and join in our worship services.

Services will begin at 5:00 p.m. Sunday and Monday thru Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors C.E. and Betty Morris invites everyone to attend and enjoy old time gospel services.

Mercy's Way & Danny Funderburk to be in Concert at Country Cathedral

Danny Funderburk and Mercy's Way will be in concert Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at Country Cathedral Assembly of God in Opp, Ala. Country Cathedral is located on Hwy. 84 about 5 miles East of Opp, Ala. Everyone is invited. A love offering will be received. For more information call 334-493-7413 or visit www.countrycathedral.com

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006



ERIA

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship will begin 9:00 a.m. Registration fee will be \$10.00 per person (Lunch Included)

For more information and for early registration call Pat Johnson-894-0078, Ann Scott-447-7392 or Pleasant Shade Baptist Church-334-5197.

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Newbia Baptist Church to hold revival services April 17-20

Newbia Baptist Church, located on Coffee County Road 330, will conduct Revival Services beginning Sunday evening, April 17, at 6 p.m.

The Revival services will continue Monday evening, April 18, through Wednesday evening, April 20, at 7 p.m. nightly.

The speaker will be Bro. Johnny Holley of Dothan, Ala. Everyone is invited to attend.

New Zion A.M.E. Church to hold Spring Revival

New Zion A.M.E. Church on Clarke Street in Enterprise will hold its Annual Spring Revival on April 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Reverend Josephine Marlow, Associate Pastor of the Clopton Circuit, will be the revival evangelist. The revival theme is "Wait Upon the Lord," based upon Isaiah 40:31. Pastor Rufus L. Lloyd and members of New Zion invite everyone to attend.

Those visiting in the home of Lina Belcher recently were: Delawrence Woods, Sherrie Jones and D'Unda Peterson, all of Tuscaloosa. Rev. Richard & Katonya Kyles, Lathan Tillis, Curtis Kelley, Kyra Kelley, Patti Culver, Wesley Kelley, Limestone Kelley all of Elba, and Minister Robert Edwards of

Enterprise, Alabama on Sunday, April 17 at 3:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. L.E. Flowers from the New Philadelphia C.O.G.I.C. in Elba, (Shiloh Community).

***ANNUAL YOUTH REVIVAL will be held at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Tarentum, Ala. April 13-15 at 7:00 p.m. nightly. The guest minister will be Rev. Darryl Caldwell from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Elba.

***FREEDOM THROUGH DELIVERANCE Annual Women's Conference to be held at Pleasant Shiloh Baptist Church in Enterprise, April 16. The speakers will be Minister Helen Wagstaff, Mrs. Angela Seals and Missionary Miriam Goolshy.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship will begin 9:00 a.m. Registration fee will be \$10.00 per person (Lunch Included)

For more information and for early registration call Pat Johnson-894-0078, Ann Scott-447-7392 or Pleasant Shade Baptist Church-334-5197.

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LIFESTYLES

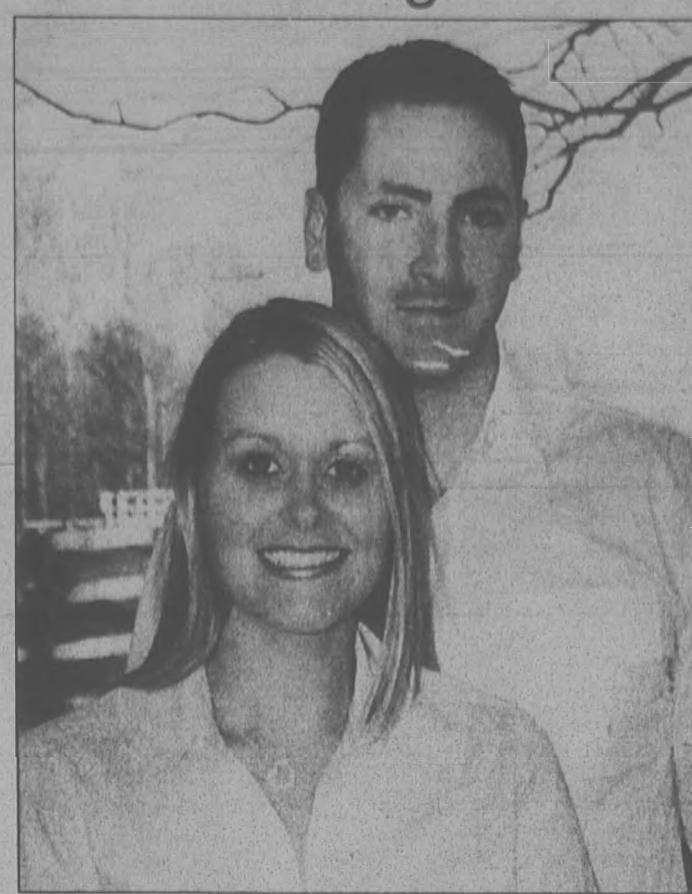
Miss McCall and Mr. Howell to be united in holy matrimony Saturday, June 18th



Miss Britany McCall



Miss Weeks & Mr. Goodbody plan June wedding



Miss Weeks & Mr. Goodbody

Mr. and Mrs. Van Joseph McCall of Elba announce the engagement of their daughter, Britany Marie McCall of Tuscaloosa, to Jonathan Franklin Howell of Dothan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Franklin Howell of Hartford.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mavis Davis of Elba and the late Mr. Leroy Dalton Davis, and the late Mr. and Mrs. L. B. McCall of the Goodman community.

She is a 1997 graduate of Elba High School. She graduated from the University of Alabama in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She is employed as a teacher in Tuscaloosa.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Mrs. Josephine Hendrix and the late Mr. J.C. Hendrix, and Mrs. Gladys Howell and the late Mr. Seba Howell, all of Hartford.

He is a 1994 graduate of Geneva County High School. He graduated from Enterprise State Junior College and from the University of Alabama in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is employed as a sales professional.

The wedding will take place on Saturday, June 18, 2005, at 5:00 p.m., at Westside Baptist Church in Elba.

No local invitations are being sent. Family and friends are invited to attend.

Republician Women of Coffee County will be meeting at Po Folks Restaurant, 650 Boll Weevil Circle on Wednesday, April 20th at 11:30 AM for their luncheon meeting. Public Information Officer Mike Lolley of the Enterprise Police Department will be speaking on Crime and Prevention. The menu will be a buffet and drink for \$8.00 inclusive. The public is invited. For reservations call Fay McCrary at 393-0471.

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SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Casey Medlock &
Kayla Kelley

EHS Ambassadors sponsor Miss Relay for Life pageant

The Elba High School Ambassadors will sponsor a "Miss Relay for Life" pageant on Saturday, April 30, at the Elba High School auditorium.

There will be seven age divisions to include: Tiny Miss Relay - ages 2-3; Future Little Miss Relay - ages 4-5; Little Miss Relay - ages 6-7; Petite Miss Relay - ages 8-10; Miss Pre-Teen Relay - ages 11-12; Junior Miss Relay - ages 13-15; and Miss Relay - ages 16-18.

The pageant will begin at 6 p.m. for age divisions 2-10 followed by an intermission. The pageant for age divisions 11-18 will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Age divisions 2-10 must wear heirloom or Sunday dresses

Co-Op Spotlight

by Rebecca English



This week's Co-op Spotlight is **Aubrey Chase Davis**.

Chase is the 19-year-old son of Debbie Compton and is a senior here at Elba High School. He is currently employed at National Security as an outside worker.

Chase enjoys drawing and playing the guitar in his spare time. His future plans include attending Enterprise Ozark Community College in the fall where he will go into Ozark Aviation.

Chase is known to be laid back, nice, and an all around good guy, but this week we classify him as "Co-op Spotlight."

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2005 \$2.19 70%

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Contact: James E. Grimes

@ Ph. No. 897-2333



EHS marching band holds tryouts for 2005 auxiliary units

by Stephanie Corder

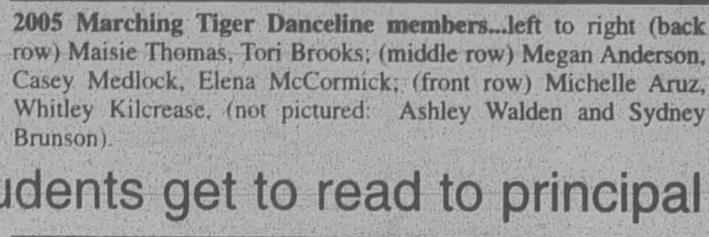
The Elba High School Marching Tiger Band auxiliary try-outs were held on Tuesday, April 5.

Many young ladies worked hard during the week of clinic. This is where the talented ladies learned their try-out routine and many other basics performed during the try-outs.

At the end of a long week, 43 young women went through the exciting try-out. After tons of deliberation and tons of adding up, the 2005 Marching Tiger Auxiliaries were chosen. All in all there will be 11 colorguard members, nine dance-line members, and seven majorettes. Congratulations to all for your hard work and dedication.



2005 Marching Tiger Colorguard members...left to right (back row) Whitney Bailey, Brittany Davis, Tamara Oliver; (middle row) Tiffany Johnson, Brittany Caldwell, Ashley Carpenter, Amber Hudson; (front row) Yousheya Terry, Erica Daniels, Brittany Phillips and Ashley Camley.



2005 Marching Tiger Danceline members...left to right (back row) Maisie Thomas, Tori Brooks; (middle row) Megan Anderson, Casey Medlock, Elena McCormick; (front row) Michelle Aruz, Whitney Kilcrease, (not pictured) Ashley Walden and Sydney Brunson.



2005 Marching Tiger Majorette members...left to right (back row) Ashley Bailey, Kayla Kelley, Stephanie Corder; (middle row) Cortlin Lee, Emily Miller; (front row) Shelby Brunson, (not pictured) Rae Walker.

Did You Know?...

by Duke Carr

- The world's termites outweigh the world's humans 10 to 1.
- China has more English-speaking people than the United States.
- Ants don't sleep.
- Drivers kill more deer than hunters.
- Jimmy Carter was the first U.S. President to be born in a hospital.
- The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- On the night "The Exorcist" premiered in Rome, Italy a bolt of lightning struck the steeple on the church next door and knocked the crucifix into the street.
- It is anatomically impossible for humans to lick their own elbow.
- The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.
- Hershey's Kisses are called the because the machine that make them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.
- "I am." Is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- Every day more is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.
- Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than new cars.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- The longest word in the English language is 1909 letters long and it refers to a distinct part of DNA.
- Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a bellybutton.
- Ants don't sleep.
- Almost everyone who reads this will try and lick their own elbow.

EHS Student Spotlight

by Jennifer Grissett

If you can apply respect to yourself and feel its impact, then you can understand the significance of giving it to someone else.

Class is a word with various meanings. Class is having confidence in yourself. If you hang your head down everywhere you go, you are saying to the world that you probably don't like yourself very much. Having class is holding your head up high.

Class is being able to act properly, without being ugly about it, in all situations. Class does not mean you are a snobby person, it just means that you understand that there is a time and a place for everything.

It means that you can demonstrate how to act appropriately in all situations.

It means being a good loser and a good winner.

It means not beating a team by 40 points just because you can. Class requires respect, but it requires more.

It requires a desire to represent yourself and everything you stand for in an outstanding way.

It requires having ideals and a hope to make your part of the world a better place.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Several leave Covington Electric Co-Op meeting as prize winners

Prize winners at 2005 Covington Electric Cooperative annual meeting were announced at the meeting. The 1995 Dodge Dakota truck was awarded as the most attendance prize to Eva Bass Davis of Andalusia at the annual membership meeting of Covington Electric Cooperative held on April 7. Jean Williamson of Andalusia was the winner of the 27-inch flat screen television, and Merle C. King of Red Level received the DVD player.

The microwave oven went to Lisa Musgrove of Red Level; the electric grill with rotisserie was won by Colbert Clark of Dozier; and Krystal Ann Williams of Chancellor received the \$150 cash prize from Covington Electric.

Other prize winners were as follows:

\$100 cash—Lessie V. Cannon, Brantley; 12" Magnum drill—Elbert Perdue, Andalusia; Portable DVD player—Carrie Devers, Elba; Roundup Pro—Bessie Williamson, Red Level; and \$50 cash—Donna Ammons, Andalusia.

\$50 cash—Billie Blackmon, Andalusia; \$50 cash—Harold Wise, Kinston; \$50 Wal-Mart gift card—Wade Jones, Dozier; \$50 Wal-Mart gift card—Herman Lord, Andalusia; \$50 Wal-Mart gift card—Voncile Cox, Red Level; George Foreman grill—Richard Morey, Andalusia; Electric griddle—Libertyville City Hall, Andalusia; Toaster Oven—A.A. Driver, Dozier; Multi-Cooker steamer—Ino Baptist Church, Kinston; Toaster—Bethany Baptist Church, Andalusia; and Freshguard vacuum—Walter Compton, Elba.

Electric skillet—Ron Taylor, Red Level; Finishing sander—Mark Donaldson, Elba; Tiffany lamp—James Mazzara, Dozier; Decorative lamp—Joseph Lee, Red Level; \$25 Visa gift card—Pearlie Paul, Samson; \$25 Visa gift card—John R. Pitts, Andalusia; \$25 Visa gift card—Quinton Smith, Opp; \$25 Visa gift card—Johnny Castleberry, Red Level; \$25 Visa gift card—Mary McCart, Red Level; and Rechargeable flashlight—Larry Gunter, Andalusia.

Wet/dry vacuum—Gary Worley, Florida; Rechargeable spotlight—Richard Patton, Andalusia; Touchstone Energy shirt—Preston Weaver, Andalusia; Touchstone Energy shirt—Oscar Sasser, Brantley; Nike bag—Debra Spicer, Wing; Portable hand lamp—Johnnie Davis, Andalusia; Travel cooler—Jerry Kendrick, Opp; Coffee maker—Tammie Raley, Andalusia; Coffee maker—Othel Reeves, Kinston; Silver bowl—John Polmar, Kinston; Travel bag—John Mack Dewrell, Andalusia; Toaster—Regnold Cross, Red Level.

This spring the community of Union Springs, Ala. will offer the opportunity to take a trip back in time and experience life the way it used to be. Conecuh People, the Experiences, center-piece with Conecuh People, a play that tells the story of a young man's coming of age in rural Alabama during the 1950s, will be presented by the Tourism Council of Bullock County.

Also included in "the experience" will be a quilt exhibit in the town's beautiful churches, an exhibition by local artists, self-guided tours of historical buildings and sites, a catered

Miss Pea River pageant set for Saturday, April 16

The Elba Band Boosters will be sponsoring the Miss Pea River Pageant on April 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. The pageant will be held in the Elba High School auditorium and is open to girls ages 3-19 years old.

Applications can be picked up at Tangles & Threads, Dairy Queen, Jerry's, Elba Elementary or High School.

Wiregrass natives involved with upcoming theatrical production

Wiregrass natives will have a strong influence on Conecuh People, an original theatrical production, when it is performed in Union Springs, Ala. April and May.

Margie Benson, a veteran of community theatre, directs the play which stars Ozark residents Kate Garner and Ada Christian, Ms. Benson, a teacher in the Ozark City Schools at the elementary level from 1972 to 1982, served as an art teacher and the director of musical theatre production at Carroll High School from 1982 to 1999. She received the Alabama State Council of the Arts Governor's Award in 1993.

Garner, a second grade teacher at Mixon Elementary School and Auburn alum with a degree in Theatre Performance, is a former student of Benson's at Carroll HS.

The original musical score was composed by Jeff Pate, the Music Minister at First Presbyterian Church of Enterprise, who also studied under Benson in high school. The haunting melodies of Pate's original songs will linger in your mind long after leaving Conecuh People.

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THE ASSIGNMENT

CHAPTER SEVEN

by Linda M. Hodge

Jess ended her story. She had been so caught up in telling the events of her life that she hadn't even noticed the reaction it was getting from her students. For the first time in weeks, Jess had the undivided attention of every student in her classroom. They were actually interested in the details of the event.

"I have always been grateful to Mrs. Davidson for that assignment," Jess said. "Otherwise, I probably never would have searched for the details of my mother's life. The assignment changed my outlook on life. History is a part of all our lives. Some stories may be more flamboyant than others, but each story has its own path and is worth remembering."

"Wait a minute!" one student exclaimed. "You can't leave us hanging like that. What happened with your report?"

"Yeah, and what about the letter?" another asked. "What did your mother say?"

The plan really had worked. The students were not only interested in the story, they wanted more details!

With a smile on her face, Jess continued her story. She said the presentation went better than she had anticipated. She had her dad bring the chest to class, and she focused on it. She said the chest served as a symbol of what's really important.

"I may not have remembered my mother, but she was there," Jess said. "The chest was full of reminders of our life. Those reminders came alive in my heart, and I realized she would forever be a part of me."

As for the letter, Jess said she had never shared it with anyone, except of course, her dad, and him today.

"My mom wanted to be sure I didn't discover the information in the chest until the time was right, and I was ready," Jess continued. "After I read the letter, I decided the same would be true for it. I have always kept it near, but I didn't want to share it with anyone until I felt the timing was right. With that said, I don't think I could finish this story today without sharing the contents of the letter."

Jess took it from her desk drawer and began reading...

My Dearest Jessica,
I know you will not remember me, but I hope I have left enough reminders that you will understand how much love and joy you brought to my life. It saddens me to know that I will not be there to watch you grow as a person, but I am certain you will exceed my expectations each and every day. There will be times in your life when you feel you can not accomplish your goals. Never give in to those feelings. I've watched you grow during this first year of your life, and I haven't seen a thing yet that has kept you from achieving whatever you set your mind to. Never give up. I assure your life will not be easy, and there will be tough roads ahead. Trust me, life's worth every minute of pain and joy. The greatest day of my life was the day you were born. Today is the saddest for I know I will be leaving you soon. I may not physically be there with you, but I will always be a part of you just as you will always be a part of me. No matter where you go or what you do in life, remember that your mother loved you with every inch of her soul and will always be proud of you. I once told your father that you were our gift, and gifts can never be taken away...

"There was so much I learned during that one week," Jess explained as she folded the letter. "The assignment led me to my mother's letter. Her words taught me the importance of life. Just as Mrs. Davidson said to me, 'our history is made up of the things we do today for tomorrow. To remember yesterday. My mother showed me that, and I truly believe the assignment and the letter, together, led me to where I am today.'"

Author Linda M. Hodge is a native of Elba, Alabama. The Assignment is produced in partnership with this newspaper. Copyright 2005.

National Security plans Relay for Life event for Saturday:

The National Security Group's Relay for Life Team will sponsor a "Ride to Live - Live to Ride" Poker Run on Saturday, April 16. The ride will begin from the National Security Insurance office parking lot at 9 a.m. There will be a \$10 entry fee per rider with a \$50 cash prize for the rider with the best poker hand.

All proceeds will benefit the Coffee County Relay for Life event.

U. S. Consumer Safety Commission announces Sears recalls table saw fence

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. To access color photos of the following recalled products, see CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

About 41,800 Table Saw's Rip Fence Assemblies, manufactured by Rexon Industrial Corp. Ltd., of East Windsor, Conn. and distributed by Sears Roebuck and Co., of Hoffman Estates, Ill. are being recalled.

The rip fence - a metal guide that keeps material being sawed from shifting side to side as it passes through the cutting blade - can come loose. This could result in kickback of the material being sawed and possible injury to the operator.

Rexon on behalf of Sears has received 230 reports of the rip fence bracket coming loose. No injuries were reported.

The rip fence on these saws is made of silver extruded aluminum, is 31 inches in length, and has an over-locking handle with a black die-cast aluminum head. They were included with Craftsman table saw model number 137.21830.

The units were sold in Sears stores nationwide from August 2002 through November 2004.

\$500⁰⁰ REWARD

Cook Chevrolet is offering a \$500⁰⁰ reward for information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons guilty of the vandalization of the vehicles at Cook Chevrolet on or around March 24, 2005. Please call Larry Weeks @ 334 897-2297 or 1-800-422-4680 if you have any information pertaining to this.

Your confidentiality will be respected.

COMMUNITY NEWS

31st annual Piney Woods Arts Festival planned for April 16 & 17

The 31st Piney Woods Arts Festival will be April 16 & 17, 2005, on the grounds of Enterprise-Ozark Community College, Enterprise, AL, from Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday Noon to 4 p.m. Original art, crafts, special displays, food and entertainment provide something for everyone. This is a juried show, providing monetary awards, and attracts artists from throughout the Southeast. Additionally, art work by Junior High and Senior High students is featured on the grounds. EOCC art student's work will be displayed in the Corner Gallery, President Purchase Awards from past Piney Woods Arts Festivals may be seen in the foyer of the gym.

Saturday, "Tales and Scales," an instrumental musician troupe, will perform stories for children told through music, theater, dance and imagination. "Tales and Scales" is the nation's only "musictelling" ensemble. Since 1986 the troupe of four instrumental musicians has worked with the highest emerging composers, writers and theater directors to create innovative new works each year in their mission to ignite the imaginations of children and family audiences. The "Tales & Scales" troupe will present ARABIAN KNIGHTS at 1:25 p.m. at the outside entertainment area.

The Children's Fun Center will delight children with "Moon Walk," face painting, and carnival games.

Bonnie Holland, Alabama botanical artist and master gardener will conduct three free workshops in the gymnasium on:

Admission to the festival is free. Information: 334-347-1249 or 393-2797. "Tales and Scales" is sponsored by Martin Colley Drug Company and the Alabama State Council On the Arts.)

ZC team competing in 4th annual BattleBots IQ National Robotics Championship

Zion Chapel High School announces that a team of seven students has gone to Orlando, Fla., to compete in the 4th Annual BattleBots IQ National Robotics Championship which is taking place at Universal Studios Orlando on April 11-16, 2005.

"These incredible students have worked hard and brought together a wide range of skills to build a marvelous machine. By doing a hands-on project like this they experienced the practical, real-world application of what they have been taught in their math and science courses, and in the process, cemented a lot of learning," says John McCrory, Agriscience teacher and BattleBot coach.

"These seven students have proceeded through the entire process, from concept through manufacturing and testing. They've had to deal with constraints to time, weight, materials, money and the power available for their creation," continued McCrory. "They have chosen to build four bots this year and are making the final preparations." Participating students are Charlie Hurd, Earl Jacobs, Adam Spear, Lara Lea Beasley, Morgan Miley, Stetson Petty, and Hobi Hasey.

For further information call John McCrory at (334) 897-6275.

Thank You

I would like to say a special thanks to all the members of Altrusa Inc. of Jack, Ala. The Miss Zion Chapel pageant held last Saturday night was a wonderful experience for all the contestants. You all did an amazing job! I'd like to give a special thanks to Jennifer Flowers, Wyndi Cotton, Jennifer Arnlund, Maloree Bedsole and Kayla Deal. I appreciated all the help, and thanks for leading us in a great direction.

With Lots of Love,
Torie Hodge

Maria Rivera & Kevin Lawford
Shower: 3/20/05 Wedding: 4/24/05
Kristen Mayberry & Dustin Stinson
Shower: 5/1/05 Wedding: 6/11/05
Lindsay Taylor & Kevin Dodd
Shower: 4/16/05 Wedding: 5/21/05

Elba Elementary Kindergarten Registration May 5 & 6

On May 5 and 6, Elba Elementary School will begin registering kindergartners for the upcoming school year. Enrollment will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. In order to enroll, a child should be five years old on or before September 2, 2005. Children should bring an Alabama shot record, birth certificate, and social security card. Each child should attend enrollment with their parents. An informal evaluation will be completed this day on each child. If you have any questions, please call Elba Elementary School at 897-2814.

Basic computer courses offered at LBWCC-MacArthur

LBW Community College - MacArthur Campus will offer How to Use Your Personal Computer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for six weeks. Classes will be held in the Computer Science Department, Room G-1. The class will begin on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 and end on Thursday, May 12, 2005.

How to Use Your Personal Computer is a beginner course that introduces users to the world of computing and computer applications. This hands-on course will cover Windows XP, Microsoft Word 2002, and the Internet.

The cost of the course is \$85.00 per participant. Participants will be charged an additional fee for their textbook (\$45.00 est. book cost).

Nursing Contact Hour Credit is available for participants who successfully complete this course. Anyone interested in this course should register before Tuesday, April 5th. For more information or to register please contact the Admission's Office on the MacArthur Campus at (334) 493-3573; ext. 5360 or 5344.

Suzanne Stinson and ATA truckers are supporting "Highway Watch" program

Governor endorses Highway Watch, urges involvement of state agencies Alabama governor Bob Riley recently endorsed Highway Watch, a national security program administered by the American Trucking Associations in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama Trucking Association (ATA).

The governor signed a proclamation at the State Capitol recently, endorsing the anti-terrorism program and encouraged the active involvement of Alabama's militia and agencies.

Highway Watch was developed in 1998, and enhanced at the request of President George W. Bush after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to protect U.S. roadways and infrastructure from attack and sabotage.

Since joining the program three years ago, the Alabama Trucking Association has trained more than 400 volunteers and plans to increase that number to several thousand by year's end.

ATA recently added Elbanative Suzanna Stinson to coordinate the Highway Watch program within the state. Her duties include recruitment, training and retention of volunteers in the federally funded national security program.

Stinson, a graduate of Troy University, previously worked with the Alabama chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in Montgomery, overseeing recruitment of partners in MADD's state youth program. Before that she worked as an administrator for the Alabama Department of Transportation's Troy Branch.


For more information about Highway Watch, please contact state program coordinator Suzanna Stinson at (334) 834-3983.

Founded in 1938, the Alabama Trucking Association is a non-profit corporation operating as a trade association. The Alabama Trucking Association's membership consists of more than 700 members, including for-hire and private truck operators along with its allied industry members (those who equip and service the industry).

Troy Music Department to host concert on Monday, April 25th

The Troy University Music Department will present a Chamber Winds Concert at 8 p.m. Monday, April 25 in the Trojan Center theatre. The concert will feature the 36-member wind ensemble. The concert will feature guest soloist Dr. Catherine Allard

um Mitternacht by Gustav Mahler. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information contact the TROY Music Department at (334) 670-3241.



"Putting People First"

To better serve our customers, we are expanding our hours of operation. Beginning Monday, April 18, 2005, our **NEW HOURS** are as follows:

Elba	New Brockton
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Thursday • Drive-Thru Service until 5 p.m.)	Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Thursday • Drive-Thru Service until 5 p.m.)
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday (Drive-Thru Only) 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Saturday Closed

Enterprise (New Location)


Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday
Closed

Please Visit Our New Location at:
1110 North Boll Weevil Circle
Suite C
Enterprise, AL 36330

"We Appreciate Your Business & Thank You for Your Continued Support."



"A Great Tooth" Connection"

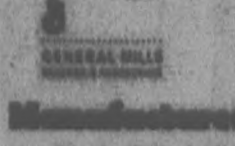


About Us

Kelley Foods of Alabama, Inc. is a proud manufacturer and broad-line foodservice distributor in the southeast. The Kelley's venture into the food distribution business began in 1957 as a meat processing facility. Today Kelley's still manufactures it's own branded meat products as well as warehouse and distribute other quality manufacturers products to retail and foodservice customers alike. Since the beginning Kelley's has had a rich tradition of excellent service, quality products and competitive pricing. Our motto is "Quality First, Service Always."

- Our distribution and manufacturing facilities total over 130,000sq ft. and inventory over 4,500 items.
- We have 17 trucks in our fleet delivering products to over 1,000 retail and foodservice customers.
- We employ over 160 employees with plans to increase in the future.
- Sales for 2004 were in excess of \$55,000,000.


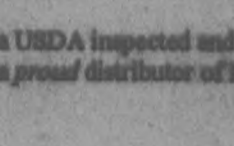

Broad-Line Foodservice Distributors

- Our geographical coverage area is within a 150 mile radius from our headquarters in Elba, Alabama. This area includes: Southern Alabama, Florida Panhandle, Southwest Georgia and Southeast Mississippi.
- Our customer base includes: restaurants, schools, hospitals, hotels, day care, country clubs, government facilities, clubs, churches, etc.
- Our product categories include: seafood, produce, dairy, desserts, dry goods, paper, frozen foods, fresh and cured meats, etc.
- Some of our quality suppliers include: General Mills, Lamb Weston, McCain Foods, Koch Foods, Bunge, Oageh, America's Catch, Brawley/Beck's, Royal Cup and many others.

Manufacturers

- Products include: hams, sausages, lunchnests, wieners, etc.
- Customers include: independents, regional chains

Kelley Foods is a USDA inspected and HACCP approved facility.
Kelley Foods is a proud distributor of Nugget branded products.

Our mission is to provide our customers with unmatched service in the food distribution industry, provided by the best people, while developing partnerships that influence growth for our customers. #1st.

